



Downwinders

reducing toxic air pollution in north texas *at risk*

Applicant Information Form Sue Pope North Texas Pollution Reduction Program

Organization:	TEXAS RAIL ADVOCATES
Organization type	NON PROFIT 501c-3
Organization Street Address:	800 JAGUAR LANE
City, State, Zip	DALLAS , TX 75226

Project Officer (Title, First, MI, Last, Suffix):						JOHN L RADDICH					
Phone— extension	214 426-4100	Fax	214 426-3116	Email	HELP@JOHNSCARS.COM						
Project Name			RAIL SOLUTIONS FOR AIR POLLUTION								
Location of Project			DFW AREA								
Project Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY)			CONTINUATION OF CURRENT WORK								
Project End Date (MM/DD/YYYY)			TERM 2010/2011 ONGOING								

BUDGET: Please summarize your budget request in the space provided. You should also provide a more detailed budget in your preproposal.

Line Item	Requested Funds	Matching Funds
Salaries and Benefits	34,000 ⁰⁰	VOLUNTEER HOURS
Equipment		
Other: PRINTING/MEDIA/MAIL	16,000 ⁰⁰	DONATIONS CONFERENCE REVENUES
Total:	50,000 ⁰⁰	

Rail solutions for air pollution in North Texas – Take the train

Funding request for the Sue Pope North Texas Pollution Reduction Program from Texas Rail Advocates, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. Texas Rail Advocates (TRA) promotes "all modes" of rail transportation as all need to be linked, intermodalism maximizes efficiency leading to reduced smog. This initiative "our mission", is designed to enhance the quality of life enjoyed by its people by advancing the development of rail service to its full potential as a carrier of freight and passengers.

North Texas is at a critical junction for future transportation needs. Do we continue to build more lanes onto existing major highways? Do we expand land-taking and add new highways? Do we subject our citizens to increased levels of air pollution from cars and trucks stalled in traffic?

Regional rail and intercity rail initiatives are an important component in moving both people and goods. Elected and appointed officials must move forward on these issues now and, through public outreach, Texas Rail Advocates education efforts are to help influence others to do the best things for our state.

Texas Rail Advocates proposes an expanded public information campaign for 2010 and 2011 that leads up to the next legislative session in Austin to inform and educate the public, elected and appointed officials on the benefits of expanding rail service. TRA is the only non-profit Texas organization that serves as a watchdog on actionable rail issues.

Trains are more energy-efficient per passenger mile than cars or trucks, making them one of the most eco-friendly transportation options around. A group of people traveling together significantly lowers their overall carbon footprint. If we take existing riders off rail transportation in North Texas and put each one in a car, it would send countless thousands more automobiles onto our streets and highways.

Texas Rail Advocates proposes the following:

1. Create, print and distribute an updated brochure with the facts and figures demonstrating freight and passenger rail positive impacts on reducing NOx emissions. This would also include how today's railroads have embraced the green movement with low emission locomotives and other TERP efforts.
2. Establish an outreach person to meet with elected and appointed officials and inform them of direct benefits and the importance of rail during 2010 and 2011 leading up to the next general legislative session in Austin.

- C. Participation/display in annual Texas Regional Council of Governments conferences.
- D. Organized a unified voice for the coalition of rail groups including Texas Association of Rail Passengers, National Association of Railroad Passengers, Short Line railroads and private railcar owners to engage in state and local rail issues.
- E. Created National Train Day events in Dallas and Fort Worth in 2008 and 2009 to promote passenger travel and shipping by rail. Supported by proclamations from the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth. Participants ranged from BNSF Railway and Union Pacific displaying new technology locomotives that reduce NOx emissions, to a youth outreach via Radio Disney, local/regional transit agencies including DART, the Fort Worth 'T', Trinity Railway Express, and Denton County Transportation Authority.
- F. TRA President Peter LeCody serves on the Texas Transportation Commission I-35 Corridor Advisory Committee. The Texas Transportation Commission received a committee report in February 2009 that included why rail must be a key component of any future transportation plans and urged for the creation of a Rail Division at TxDOT.
- G. TRA has campaigned to establish a Rail Division within the Texas Department of Transportation since 2000. This year's House Bill 300, TxDOT Sunset Review, the provision was added to create the Rail Division. Authority to create the Rail Division will be decided in the upcoming legislative special session this year.
- H. To promote the benefits of enhanced rail services, TRA board members have met with leaders of government, business and industry including Matt Rose, President of BNSF Railway; David Laney, former Board Chair of Amtrak; Mayors Tom Leppert, Laura Miller, and council members; Fort Worth city officials; past and present Executive Directors of TxDOT; executives of Alliance Texas and Dallas Logistics Center Inland Port.
- I. TRA has worked with the North Central Texas Council of Governments and is responsible for initiating a meeting with Transportation Director Michael Morris that resulted in a tri-state stakeholder conference call on developing rail corridors. Subsequently, Memorandums of Understanding have been signed with outlying Council of Governments in support of future rail plans. NCTCOG coop-ed a TRA tri-fold brochure on how rail would be beneficial in limiting pollution and a positive step in helping travel concerns in the region.

4. Educate officials on available federal stimulus and state sponsored funding for rail initiatives and how those available funds would be used to enhance rail transportation in North Texas.
5. Create a scorecard of how emissions can be reduced (and have been reduced) by enhancement and expansion of passenger and freight rail services.
6. Spotlighting the Tower 55 congestion issue – the biggest choke point for freight and passenger rail transportation in the Western U.S.
 - a) Freight trains idle waiting to cross Tower 55 increases NOx and other emissions, cars and trucks waiting at grade crossings for slow rail traffic add to the pollutant soup.
 - b) Without a Tower 55 solution, additional passenger rail service to the region is not possible, thereby increasing auto traffic and emissions on roads.
 - c) Trains are not competitive time wise due to low average speeds – by eliminating choke points, average system speeds can be increased thereby attracting more “road to rail” activity. This means fewer idling trains at junction points and backups of existing freight and passenger services throughout the attainment area. A Tower 55 solution can mean additional through truck traffic moved off roadways, further lowering emissions from vehicles slowed by heavy truck traffic.
7. Supporting Rail North Texas. By supplying information that encourages federal, state, regional and local participation in the Rail North Texas initiative, it allows the citizens of North Texas to have control over their destiny by looking at ways to reduce emissions through additional passenger rail service and the expeditious movement of freight through the region. The failure of state office holders to understand the critical nature of clogged highways and increased emissions in North Texas and not allowing counties to make intelligent decisions is an unacceptable option.
8. Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund – To make sure that allocated funds stay focused on Tower 55 congestion solutions. This is and has been a Texas Rail Advocates priority.

Accomplishments of Texas Rail Advocates

- A. Six “annual conferences” promoting freight and passenger rail since 2004. Conference details/videos are on the web at www.texasrailadvocates.org.
- B. Visits to state and national officials and offices in Austin during and between legislative sessions since 2000. Testimony before Senate Transportation Committee. Local office visits and active participants of Railroad Days at the Texas State Capitol and in Washington D.C.

- J. TRA participated in a Federal Railroad Administration High Speed Rail Workshop in Houston this year; exhibited and supplied speakers for Texas Transportation Summits; attends regular meetings of the Tower 55 Technical Advisory Group and has participated in Earth Day in Dallas.
- K. Promoted operation of Amtrak's Texas Eagle on the TRE (off the Union Pacific's main line) – eliminates multiple crossings/reverse moves through Tower 55 by 2/3rds. To be implemented this year and includes adding a mid cities stop – the #2 tourist destination in Texas.

Funding and Budget:

Funding Request: \$ 50,000

Budget – Use of funds

\$ 34,000 - Labor and associated costs to keep the focus on rail legislation as it benefits the North Texas attainment area and helping to educate and inform decision makers on the benefits of rail transportation. Continuing our one on one meetings with local, regional, state and federal stakeholders in 2010 and 2011, prior to the 2011 state legislative session.

\$ 10,000 - Production, printing, mailing of informational and educational brochures. Also includes TRA website additions that compliment goals of reducing air pollution.

\$ 5,000 - Annual Rail Conference 2010 and 2011 – Dallas, TX. Previous conference speakers and exhibitors included segments on NOx and pollution control through electrified railways, positive train control (PTC), information provided by the North Central Texas Council of Governments and other non-governmental organizations. We would welcome participation from a Sue Pope Fund recipient to demonstrate how NOx and other pollutants have been reduced.

\$ 1,000 - Regional Council of Governments Conference participation in 2010.